

YUFOS

YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

PROJECT RED BOOK

(Vol.4 #7, January 2001)



inside this document

THEY SAID WHAT?

UFO CENTRAL

FROM AROUND THE WORLD...

And much more...

£1:50

YUFOS



Vol 4 # 7, January 2001)

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Dedicated to: Big 'Pussy'... he sleeps with the fishes.

To re-print articles in this magazine please enquire at the above address- that means me, Dave. I'm sure to say "yes", but it is nice to ask first...and remember to give us a reference now, y'hear?

The articles and views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, YUFOS members or hell, anyone for that matter.

"He slimed me..."

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first *Project Red Book* of 2001.

As is usual for the first issue of the year, I would like to take the time out to thank all of the people who have made it possible for YUFOS and *Project Red Book* to continue for another year - sort of like Tom Hanks at the Oscars but without the girly tears.

Thanks to all of the writers and researchers who have agreed to sit in the electronic interview chair and submit themselves to inane questions from myself over the past year: *Bill Chalker, Rory Lushman, Omar Fowler, Paul Fuller, Loren Coleman, Dr. David Clarke, Graham Birdsall and Gloria Dixon* all provided entertaining and thought-provoking interviews with no conditions, and not a penny paid. All they received for opening their hearts was a copy of PRB, which some may think of as more of a punishment, but there you go; some unfortunate individuals get one sent to them every month *whether they want one or not!* (shudder!)

Seriously though, all of these people are very busy not only with their UFO research but more importantly their lives and work outside the zany, madcap and downright whacky world of ufology, yet no-one has ever refused to be interviewed. Sceptics and ETH-ers alike, no matter what they think of each other, have all had the decency and courtesy to help out a little ol' rag like us, for which I am eternally grateful.

Also...all YUFOS members for continuing support...

Jenny Randles for great publicity and excellent reviews of PRB in her magazine *Northern UFO News*, and for taking the time out from arguing with *Georgina Bruni* about *Rendlesham* on *UFO Updates* to provide previously unpublished articles for PRB when we were desperately short of material...

Dr. David Clarke and *Andy Roberts* for help and advice on such things as the *Mexborough* footage and for excellent PRB articles...

Ian Gregory for printing PRB since April 1999, and for his excellent covers. Again, this work was done from the goodness of the heart,

and will not be forgotten. We hope that Ian will be able to help us again in the future...

Jonathan Slater for gathering paper supplies and literally putting the magazine together. For help and ideas, for support and submissions, and for helping out at monthly meetings, particularly the month I was ill and could attend.

Sarah Crabtree of *The Sheffield Star* for publicity and plugs.

Richard Moss for the creation and upkeep of the YUFOS website, for free trips in his big, big car, for acquiring the YUFOS -er-borrowed video projector, and for all the support and ideas and help at meetings and outside.

Jon Gillot for building our very own HAL 2001, the YUFOS computer, from which we can run natty PowerPoint slide lectures at meetings and give the group something better to look at than me...

Bill Booker for his series *The Key Turning Point* and for the huge collection of books, magazines and newspaper clippings he kindly donated to the YUFOS library.

All of the YUFOS members and professional writers who have given permission for their work to appear in the pages of PRB...these include *Paul Fuller, Bruce Maccabee, Eileen Fletcher, Jon Slater, Mark Martin, Andy Ashmore, and Adam Bradley*. Keep writing!

My wife and YUFOS treasurer *Jacqui* for her work for the group, for the hard work she put in to the YUFOS Christmas party, and for putting up with weird phone calls from *The One Who Calls Himself Dennis*, who believes that *Alternative 3* is real...

My almost-3-year-old son *Matthew* for tirelessly and with no thoughts for his own safety, stopping me from producing PRB as quickly as I would like so we can play with his WWF wrestlers or make dinosaurs out of play-dough...

And anyone else who alcohol may have made me forget. Thanks to you all and a Happy New Year!

UFO CENTRAL

By
Jonathan Slater

I received the following UFO sightings after I advertised on the 'Knowhere' boards on the Internet. This is a place where you can find long lost relatives and advertise anything you want. (Example look: at Lincoln at <http://knowhere.co.uk/board/kb593/>)

I placed an advert saying, "Have you! Seen any mysterious lights or strange objects in our skies lately? A non-profit making scientific research group requires serious reports."

ABERDEENSHIRE

"It was in January of this year, about 10.00pm, I was driving towards a small farming village about 40 miles north of Aberdeen, which is a very bare landscape, all hills and fields. It was a very quiet country road; there were no other cars on the road.

"It was a cold, dark night, but the sky was very clear. While I was driving I noticed some movement in the sky, looking up I saw three bright lights in the sky in front of, they were quite far away, but they were round balls of white light.

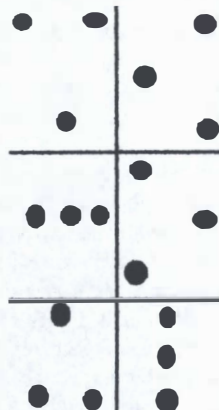
"As I was driving they were staying a steady distance ahead of me, but all the time they were changing formation. They started off in triangle formation but they were changing position a lot, every ten seconds or so they would move so that there was a different one on top of the three, they changed position very quickly and swiftly, they did this for about a minute then they seemed to change what they were doing and they began changing into random formations.

"I cannot really describe it - I have attached a rough diagram of some of the positions they were going into. There didn't seem to be any pattern to it, but I may just not have noticed it. I drove like that watching them for a few minutes; they were changing formation every ten - twenty seconds, changing with incredible grace and speed.

"A couple of times they would dart over to the other side of the sky, and take formation over there - moving right across the sky in a matter of seconds. I was still driving at this point when all of a sudden they seemed to be a lot closer, I actually began to feel a bit frightened then, as opposed to awe-struck (is that a word?). I decided I wanted to get away from

there, so I put my foot down a bit, and I may have just imagined it but I SWEAR, there was virtually no power in the car at all.

"I had my foot flat on the floor and I could not get over 40 mph, however it was a old car, and I was going up hill at the time! By that point I was basically sh**ting myself, and then all of a sudden they just whooshed off to the left of me and they were gone, out of sight, in seconds, I have never seen anything move so fast in my



life.

(Mr R. S diagram of how the objects moved positions) Mr R. S asked YUFOS to keep his name anonymous.

"I never heard any sound or anything. The whole time they were far away so I never really could see what they were then I have described it as best I can I have also attached some of the various patterns they were doing (apologies for the roughness of it!) I hope I have been of assistance, I have a big interest in the paranormal myself anything else I can help with please let me know I swear every word of what I have told you is 100% gospel truth."

NORTHANTS

"1978 I think my self and 4 buddies school kids then, saw 5/6 balls of light moving from right to left just above the houses where we live in Corby Northants at first I thought it was a air balloon.

"But then the one on the end right jumped to first left then in sequence they all moved away in a total different direction [away from us] the next day there was a write-up in the local news. Never forget it [funny thing is 2 of us still live next to the same field /park/ half the school went UFO hunting the next day but only we believed it." (Iain McKellar)

EDINBURGH

"I don't know if this will be of any interest to you, but I saw your message on the Knowhere Edinburgh site and it sparked of a memory of something that happened to my mom and her friend a month or so ago.

"They were in her friends house looking out the window over at some hill thing outside, this was in broad daylight, and my mother swears she saw a little ball of light float up over the hill and down the other side, then it went flying straight upwards and disappeared.

"Nobody would have probably believed them except for the fact that it left a mark, a line shape sort of burnt into the grass. My mom even took my father to see this and he confirmed that it is still there. I am not sure of the exact details of where it is at the moment."

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

"I would like to report two occurrences, one that occurred last year and one that occurred two weeks ago.

"The one that occurred last year was around the start of the year, I think around March time. I was travelling from Nottingham to Newark along the A46. I had just passed through East Stoke when I noticed several lights in the sky above Farndon.

"As I got closer towards Farndon the lights stayed stationary. As I reached Farndon crossroads near the Farm Shop and the Repair Garage (can't remember the name) the lights were on my right hand side above the field behind the Farm Shop. I would describe the lights as a large white circle at the front, with two smaller white lights behind, making a triangle shape in total. In the middle of the triangle was a small flashing red light, and

behind that was a small flashing green light inline with the smaller white lights. I would estimate them to be three houses high off the ground. I turned my car around and drove back towards the crossroads.

"The lights were now on my left and were stationary. I turned left at the crossroads and headed past the farm centre, which was now on my left. Several cars were parked on the right of the road; one was a blue Skoda Favourite with an old man stood by it looking at the lights. I parked my car a bit further along and got out.

"The lights were still stationary. Despite they're being no wind and no background noise I could not make out any engine or rotor sounds. I observed the lights like this for five minutes or so. At this point, the lights moved slowly towards me as if following the direction of the A46 towards Nottingham. As they passed in front of me, I heard no noise.

"As the lights passed by, I could see two bright red rectangles at the rear of the lights, side by side with black vertical lines through them, like this IIIII IIIII. The red lights were solid and big in proportion to the earlier lights. As the lights passed over what I would guess to be Thorpe Village they seemed to gather speed and veered off at an angle from the A46 to the left, sort of towards the A52 / Bingham way.

"Upon arriving home I drew a picture of the lights and wrote some notes down. I have friends in the local police and I asked them whether the police helicopter had been in the area that night and they said it had not.

"The second incident occurred on Thursday 30th November this year at approx. 12.07am. I was driving home from Nottingham again when I saw lights again in the same location. This time I turned straight away at the crossroads and headed up the same road as I had parked on last time.

"However this time the only lights visible were the large white one and the two smaller white ones. As I passed the Farm Shop the lights moved steadily in the same direction as they had done before. I drove down the backlane towards Thorpe Village keeping the lights under constant observation the whole time. They seemed to ascend at a steady rate and also grew faster. By the time I had reached Thorpe Village they were out of sight. The time they disappeared from my sight was 12.17am by my car clock.

"I was quite surprised to see your post on the Knowhere Guide as I believed that what I saw was just a private helicopter or light aircraft of some description but the arrangement of the lights wasn't as they should be for either a civil or military aircraft.

"I hold a position in a local authority and so have not reported these instances before for obvious reasons." (Paul Smith)

LINCOLNSHIRE

On the Thursday, the 5th of October 2000 around 7.15pm in the Morrisons car park on Tritton Road Lincoln.

Mrs Sandra Gregory and her daughter Sarah Gregory noticed a crowd of up to 30 people looking upwards into the night sky.

"We were just going into Morrisons when we saw this bright light in the sky, just above Stage two on Tritton Road Lincoln.

"It was very bright and looked like a disco ball we watched it for about 4-5 minutes then the object just disappeared (gone)"

The weather conditions on that night was calm and clear the object seemed to appear solid and if you held 10 pence at arms length it would give you the size of the object.

The witness estimated the object was at rooftop level and within ¼ miles of where she and the other witnesses were.

When asked what most convinced them that they were observing something unusual, she replied? "Because the brightness of it and the way it just hovered and then shot off like a bullet."

To follow this case up I e-mailed *Lincolnshire Echo* reporter Sarah Winstanley to see if she received any telephone calls on that night regarding this object.

Dear Jon,

I am afraid we did not receive any reports of strange lights over St Marks Square in October. I am sure we would have reported it if anyone had seen it.

Sorry I cannot be of more help, but I will keep you in mind if we do receive any such reports.

Sarah Winstanley, *Lincolnshire Echo*)

The next person I got in touch with was Bill Booth who is the press officer for the Lincoln Astronomical Society.

Mr Booth,

As you are the press officer for the Lincoln Astronomical Society, I was hoping you could give me some information.?

At around 7.10-7.15pm on the night of the 5th October 2000 an unidentified object was seen flying over the St Marks area of Lincoln and witnessed by up to 30 people.

Was there any comets, meteors, or any other astronomical thing happening over the skies of Lincolnshire at that time of year or day and at that time?

I look forward to your answer.

Kind regards,

Jonathan Slater

Mr Booths reply was,

Mr Slater

Thankyou for your e-mail.

No predicted astronomical objects were known to be passing over Lincoln skies that night.

It is possible to see the International Space Station passing over on some nights. This looks like a fairly large white light, travelling across the sky quite quickly.

It is also possible that a "Fireball" may have passed across the sky. These objects are sometimes seen, they can be the burning remnants of a meteor, which is larger than normal. These do tend to travel slower and persist far longer than a normal "shooting star", which are normally no bigger than a grain of sand. They can be quite spectacular sometimes breaking up into a chain of objects as they disintegrate.

Apart from the above I don't know. A visual record of such events is really essential so they can be analysed. Any object you see in the sky you don't recognise can be classed as an 'Unidentified Flying Object' or UFO, but that does not mean there is no explanation possible. It can still be a terrestrial object rather than extra-terrestrial.

Sorry I can't be of any help to you, but I wish I had seen it.

*Regards
Bill Booth*

The next thing I did was to leave a message on the RAF Waddington notice board over the Internet.

Hello, I am a writer working on a article about a unidentified object flying over Lincoln on the night of the 5th of October 2000 around 7.15pm.

Up to now I have tracked down some of the witnesses who claim to have seen this object.

Did the base receive any telephone calls from the public on that night regarding this object?

Kind regards

Jonathan Slater

The webmaster replied

Suggest you write to the CRO at RAF Waddington for any official statement - I personally was not even aware that there might have been a UFO over Lincoln. Shame really, as I am a fan of "The X Files!"

So I put pen to paper and wrote to RAF Waddington to the (CRO) community relations office.

I asked did RAF Waddington receive any telephone calls from the public on the night regarding this object or any telephone call since.

In addition, was there any military exercise taking place over Lincoln or Lincolnshire that night to explain this object.

I am still waiting for RAF Waddington to reply (further up dates will be printed in *Project Red Book* when I receive them.)

EDINBURGH

"Yes the date was the 12th of Dec in Edinburgh it was at about 1 40 p.m., I was in my car (parked) with my girlfriend when out of the corner of my eye I noticed something reflecting the sun light, it was a crisp day not very many clouds in the sky but as soon as I

saw it I thought that it was really unusual it looked like a squashed egg.

"But when I saw it, it was reflecting light like highly polished chrome so I said to my girlfriend to look and she thought it looked like a sort of flattened egg as well, now there are a few things that struck me as odd, when it was moving it was really fast, now the sky had a few planes in it and the object was much lower but the planes were leaving huge white contrails as the sky was quite blue you could spot them instantly, but the object left no trail atoll, and when my girlfriend looked it had moved quite a bit and was set against a backdrop of the low level clouds, it then looked a dark colour with a purple sort of shade and it looked like when it was flying it was kind of bobbing up and down but still flying in a straight line almost as if it were struggling to stay in the air but also appearing to fly very fast and "solidly

"It was definitely not a 'plane or helicopter or balloon it was unusual, I watch a lot of programs on military stuff planes and the like but this looked completely different, to sum up 1. Very fast and egg shaped no wings tail or anything I could recognise. Also I could not work out how it seemed so reflective in the light but 2 sec later it was really dark as if it was almost a washed out black colour 2.all the planes in the sky left huge contrails in the clear sky witch stayed for a while this object left none 3.

"In relation to the planes I would say it was moving 4 -5 times faster whether this was due to the lower altitude i am not sure but it was very fast as within about 8 seconds it disappeared in the clouds. It was a very unusual object both me and my girlfriend agreed." (Donald Mackenzie)

Coming next month

**The Isle of Man sighting
The USA sighting
The Darfield Sighting**

YUFOS cannot guarantee that all these articles are 100% true but we will be looking into some of these sightings at a later date.

UFONAUT OR KING'S DAUGHTER?

In our part of the world Japan is not known for it's investment in the measuring equipment at Hessdalen and for a huge UFO centre project, which it has been somewhat quiet about at late. So valid reports and observations are something we don't get very often.

Fortunately, researcher Kazuo Tanaka has searched around and come up with an interesting historical case.

A close encounter of the third kind (CE3) could have happened in the Spring of 1803 somewhere along the coast, north of Japan's capital, Tokyo. Two different sources clearly show descriptions of incidents similar in nature.

The first source is "*Toen Shousetsu*", a collection of volumes published in 1825. One original example is found in a university bibliography. The other book is called "*Ume No Chiri*", written by an (unknown?) author by the name of Nagahashi Matazirou, and came out in 1844. Even with this case there is original text.

According to *Toen Shousetsu*, the incident is placed around the 22nd February when a kind of boat is observed from the land. Local people went out in small boats to the craft and towed it ashore. The craft was 5.5 metres in diameter and had grill-framed windows above. Underneath it was fortified with iron plates.

Inside the craft they found a women with strange features, long red hair, red eyebrows and a rosy complexion. She spoke in a strange language and held onto a box which was about 60 centimetres long and which no-one could move. Also in the "boat" was food and water and strange graphics.

An older man from the local village thought that she was a princess from a foreign land who had committed adultery, sent out to sea as punishment. In the box would be the lover's head.

Ume no Chin includes a similar description of the incident, except the date is the 24th March. Here the craft is likened to a pot used to cook rice in. Inside were found a couple of rugs whose material was unknown. Also there was a cake and food in a striking looking bowl. The

woman looked to be in her '20s and was 50 metres tall, and was not rosy faced but had a white complexion.

None of the books state what happened to the boat (craft) but presumably it or they were put back in the water. In his comparable analysis, Tanaka states that there is to be found a connection in Japanese folklore which is very reminiscent of the above incidents. It involves a fisherman who found a Chinese king's daughter in a boat. But in this story the fisherman takes the girl who eventually marries a king, thus creating a well-known Japanese dynasty. The illustrations of the craft certainly suggest they were not of a wholly usual form but it is probable, according to Tanaka, that the stories in both books are pure fiction, based on old folklore.

Added to this is the fact that the place name in the books does not exist in today's Japan, neither can it be found in various historical documents. Also, the incident would have been mentioned in some of the official documents which exist from this time.

Source: *Skeptical Inquirer* July/August 2000, re-printed in *UFO Aktuell* and translated by Eileen Fletcher.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 2001

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

THE THREE CRANES

Queen Street

Sheffield City Centre

UFOs- THE KEY TURNING POINT (PART 7)

BY W.H. BOOKER (YUFOS)

At the start of "The Key Turning Point", I said that I would give you the full story of my own sightings. I did mention briefly the first, which was in 1947. The second was in 1968 and the third was in 1969.

In 1947, at the age of 17, I was a member of the Air Training Corps for a period of two years, attending three evening meetings per week, plus many activities on Saturdays and Sundays. These weekend activities consisted of gliding lessons, attending shooting range for .22-rifle practice, camping out at several RAF airfields, with occasional flips in various aircraft.

One particular Sunday morning I had walked from home to catch the RAF truck at 8 am, via Elm Lane to Sheffield Lane Top. This truck was to take us on one of the above trips. After waiting five minutes at the regular pick-up point, two RAF personell turned up to tell me that the trip was cancelled and to go back home to bed! It was a clear, fine morning, I think in early March, but not having kept a diary I cannot be sure.

In 1947 at 8:00 am on a Sunday morning there was very little or no traffic about. I was walking back home along Elm lane at about 8:15 am facing due west when something in the sky caught my eye. It was a bright red/orange ball of light. I judged it to be about half the size of the moon, moving very slowly higher at about 50/60 degrees and getting slightly larger every few seconds. I realised then that it was travelling towards me.

My first impression was that it could be a meteorite that had just entered our atmosphere, because it appeared to be red hot, giving off a very strong 'heat-haze' around it. I stopped walking and stood to get a better view. It now looked as though it had stopped moving and just hovered there, silent at about 45 degrees. It was difficult to judge ant distance, not knowing the size of the object but I had a guess that it was about two or three miles away.

In the next moment I was distracted by an old man tugging at my arm, shouting, "What is

it?" He looked terrified! "Is it a doodlebug, flying bomb or what?"

I told him I didn't know.

"You're in the RAF aren't you?", he said. "You should know!" I could see that he was terrified. Anyhow, he said, "I'm off!" and he shot off in the opposite direction as fast as he could go!

On looking back up, I could see that the object was now moving to the right, only slowly. I had to turn right at the next road junction, so the object was now on my left, but I could only see it briefly through a cluster of trees. It appeared to be going back up, but it then moved behind a house as I walked on. I expected it to re-appear again from behind these two or three houses but there was no sign of it. It had completely disappeared.

The time that this object was in view was about four or five minutes. This sighting was the start of my studies into the UFO phenomenon.

This particular aerial object must have been seen by others, because it was reported in the local paper the following day. The actual newspaper report was that the phenomenon was a reflection in the sky of the rising sun in the west! What I saw was far too solid and clear to be some kind of reflection!

A few years ago, I was trying to picture whereabouts this object was hovering. Looking at a local map of Sheffield, it could have been somewhere near the Wadsley Bridge area. This area to me was very significant because some years ago I worked in that area at the Union Carbide factory, where they manufacture carbon electrode rods for electric furnaces. These carbon rods are baked in a furnace until hard, by using high frequency electric waves. I believe they started using these RF waves in the 1940s, because a large electric pylon was erected on the firm to supply extra power, to boost the number of extra furnaces needed to produce more carbon rods for nuclear atomic plants. Could the UFOs have detected this high RF wave?

Some years ago I spent several hours in the Sheffield Central Library, trying to trace this report, going through from early 1947 to early 1948, without any success. One thing I did notice while searching through the archives was that on the Monday, 17th March 1947, there was no copy of that local paper. It was missing, and nobody seemed to know why.

My second sighting, in 1968, was in my opinion very spectacular. I was driving back from Huddersfield at dusk, about 4:30 or 5:00 pm on November 1st or 2nd. Coming up a steep hill on the Penistone by-pass, I pulled into a lay-by, right on top of the hill. I was facing south, with a very good view of Rotherham, and north Sheffield.

It was a very clear night. I could make out a few city lights on the horizon, some 15 –20 miles away. The sun had set but I could see a couple of stars on the eastern skyline. Stepping out of the car for a breath of fresh air, I looked up to see a small bright light moving very slowly in an easterly direction.

My first thought was that it was a star, but as I watched, I realised it was moving too much to be a star, and was too bright. At this stage I speculated that it could be a very high flying aeroplane, with a very bright shining reflection from the sun, which had set below the horizon, or maybe it could have been a large orbiting satellite.

I was just about to get back in the car, but took a last look up, only to see another very bright light approaching the first one, but coming from to west. It moved very close to it, then followed it for 4 or five seconds as though observing it closely. Suddenly it became much brighter, about twice the original brightness. A couple of seconds later, without any hesitation, it shot off across the clear sky in a straight line, to disappear beyond the horizon in about 2 or 3 seconds. The speed this light must have moved, must have been thousands of miles per hour! Any human craft of our manufacture would have been crushed by the G-forces of that acceleration, or the craft would possibly disintegrate altogether.

I don't know if this sighting was observed by anyone else, but I saw no reports in the press. That object, to me, was not from this world! We have not yet, I'm sure, manufactured a craft to hover silently, move slowly in one direction, then fly off in another direction without a sound, and disappear into the blue in less than three seconds!

My third sighting was seen by thousands in the Sheffield area. It was on a Friday evening at 9:30 pm, on the 25th April, 1969. I was driving up Blackstock Road, Gleadless Valley, Sheffield with a car full of passengers, when my late wife saw a bright green light moving in and out of the low clouds. I immediately pulled into the first lay-by, climbed out of the car for a better look, wishing I'd got my camera with me.

I saw this eerie greenish light, showing through the clouds, still moving, but not very fast. It was casting a very greenish glow through the clouds. It then came to a clear patch, and I saw a large orb, which kept changing from bright green to a blue/green. Moving east to west on a straight and level course. The cloud level was about 1000/1500 feet at the most. The spherical object was about the size of the moon, and was visible at an angle of 50/60 degrees. Gradually, it disappeared towards the horizon. It took about 2 minutes from first sighting the object to it going out of sight near the horizon.

Across the road from my parked car was a public phone box, so I tried to phone the local paper, *The Sheffield Star*, but found that their switchboard was jammed with calls of the same sighting.

The next day it was reported by the press to be a satellite burning up, which they thought had landed in Wales or Ireland.

My theory was that it could *not* be a satellite coming down to earth, as this object was on a straight and level course, moving at a constant speed, possibly at about 400-500 mph, at a height of approximately 2000-3000ft.

After all of the data discussed and collected on the subjects that have been covered previously, we should now be looking at ways of collating all this information into suitable groups, for analysis and various extensive tests. We urgently need scientists to get together and cast the scientific net even wider, to experiment in all of the previous subjects – light, sound waves, magnetic fields, microwaves, gravity fields, static electrical fields, plus the earth's environment, and all that goes on inside and outside of our atmosphere. Then they should publish all of the relative results for Man to benefit from this new knowledge. We may even have some new techniques and may even ignore some present laws of physics or science.

What has hindered us in the past is the lack of knowledge. With over-population, the poison in our environment, these effects are beginning to suffocate us all. Therefore in the near future we must find the knowledge and means to transport us to new worlds, or suffer a natural man-made catastrophe.

In this new age we are now able to communicate with each other all around the world, even to the moon and back. We have computers to guide our space probes to the

outer limits of our solar system. So I believe that we now have 'got the tools' to complete our giant jigsaw. I also believe that our minds are capable of understanding all the so-called mysteries of this phenomena!

Time is very valuable, our lives are too short, not enough knowledge has been gained in the past, so we must start now, before it's too late.

We have the key, so open the door!

FROM AROUND THE WORLD...AND BEYOND!!!

UFOs, conspiracies, fortune and paranormal events compiled by Dave Baker

'CURSE OF THE MUMMY' UNWRAPPED: IT'S AN ENGLISH INVENTION

(David Keys [Toronto] *Globe and Mail* | 26 Dec. 2000)

LONDON -- A British scholar has traced the origins of the curse of Tutankhamen, the Egyptian pharaoh who died more than 3,000 years ago, and found that the legend of King Tut's curse began not in ancient Egypt but in 19th-century England.

Dominic Montserrat, an Egyptologist at London's Open University, has tracked the trail of the curse back to the 1820s, to the imagination of an English author and an odd theatrical "striptease" show in London. The intact tomb of Tutankhamen was discovered by British archeologist Howard Carter in November, 1922, working under the patronage of the fifth Earl of Carnarvon, a collector of antiquities.

The fabulous tomb yielded thousands of objects, from gold-covered chariots and masks to beautiful jewellery, furnishings and statues, as well as King Tut's mummy itself, protected in three golden coffins.

The discovery, reported in early 1923, stunned the world and spurred popular belief in a "mummy's curse" that brought woe to anyone associated with the discovery.

"My research has not only confirmed that there is no ancient Egyptian origin of the mummy's-

curse concept," he said. "But, more importantly, it also reveals that it didn't originate in the 1923 press publicity about the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb, either," said Dr. Montserrat, author of a book about pharaonic civilization called *History, Fantasy and Ancient Egypt*.

"My work shows quite clearly that the mummy's-curse concept predates Lord Carnarvon's Tutankhamen discovery -- and his death -- by 100 years."

He traced the origins of the curse to a stage show that took place near London's Piccadilly Circus in 1821, in which Egyptian mummies were unwrapped for the paying public. The show apparently inspired a 25-year-old author named Jane Loudon Webb to write an early science-fiction novel called *The Mummy*, published in 1822. Set in the 22nd century, it tells the tale of a vengeful mummy who comes back to life and threatens to strangle the book's scholarly young hero.

The Mummy was followed in 1828 by an anonymous English children's book, *The Fruits of Enterprise*, in which mummies were set alight and used by intrepid explorers as torches to illuminate the interior of an Egyptian pyramid.

Forty years later, the literary idea of the vengeful mummy evolved into the idea of a mummy's curse. In 1869, American Louisa

May Alcott, author of *Little Women*, wrote a short story called *Lost in a Pyramid*; or, *The Mummy's Curse*. Dr. Montserrat only recently rediscovered this long-lost work buried deep in the periodicals collection of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Like the anonymous 1828 children's book, and perhaps based partly on it, the Alcott story features an explorer who uses a mummy as a human torch to explore a pyramid, from which he steals a golden box containing strange seeds. The seeds are planted by the explorer's fiancée and grow into grotesque flowers; when she inhales their scent, she falls into a coma and turns into a living mummy.

The curse motif was copied and expanded upon by other British and U.S. novelists for the next 50 years. By the time Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon entered Tutankhamen's real-life burial chamber, the idea of a mummy's curse was well-established.

Scottish author Minnie MacKay (who wrote under the name Marie Corelli) promptly applied the motif to the exciting discovery of King Tut's tomb, issuing a dramatic warning that "the most dire punishment follows any rash intruder into a sealed tomb." When Lord Carnarvon died suddenly of pneumonia just two weeks after entering the tomb, the Curse of King Tut was propelled onto the front pages of the world's newspapers. An "ancient Egyptian" inscription -- "Death shall come on swift wings to him that toucheth the tomb of Pharaoh" -- was invented, and any death associated with the expedition, however remote, was attributed to the curse.

Only six of the 26 people present at the opening of Tutankhamen's tomb died in the decade following its discovery. Mr. Carter did not die until 1939, aged 64. And there are no known genuine ancient curses relating to opening tombs or removing objects from them. (In ancient times, tomb-robbers faced the wrath of the civil courts rather than that of the mummy's eternal spirit; when caught, most raiders were executed for theft.)

If King Tut didn't extract revenge on the intruders in his tomb in the form of a curse, he did find satisfaction another way. According to ancient Egyptian beliefs, a king's eternal soul would be kept alive only if his name were periodically recited for eternity. The mythical mummy's curse ensured that Tutankhamen's name will live on for many generations.

SCI-FI AUTHOR CLARKE'S DNA SET FOR SPACE ODYSSEY

HOUSTON, Jan 2 (Reuters) - Arthur C. Clarke will not be on board himself and the timing might be off by a couple of years, but a message penned by the science fiction writer and a DNA sample extracted from his hair will set off on a space odyssey in 2003.

The 83-year-old author of "*2001 - A Space Odyssey*" is one of 55,000 people who have signed up to take part in a project organized by Houston-based Encounter 2001 LLC to send a message into deep space for anybody out there who may be interested.

"It's like a cosmic message in a bottle, an archive of humanity," said Encounter 2001 spokesman Chris Pancheri.

The spacecraft is tentatively scheduled for launch by an Ariane V rocket in French Guiana in the third quarter of 2003.

Checks will be conducted during a three-week orbit of the Earth, then a giant "solar sail" will be unfurled which will carry the craft on a 13.5-year journey beyond Pluto and on into deep space.

"Fare well my clone!" is the brief handwritten message which Clarke will send along with the DNA sample and a photograph of himself to any extraterrestrials who may intercept the craft.

Pancheri said the project will cost about \$25 million, which Encounter 2001 hopes to recoup through sponsorship deals.

The idea has proved popular among schoolchildren, he said, who view it as a new twist on the practice of burying time capsules so that they can be discovered by future generations.

Further details can be found at the company's Web site:

<http://www.encounter2001.com>

WE'RE GOING TO NEED A BIGGER NET

A SWEDISH search team plans to use a net to capture the legendary Loch Ness monster, it has been confirmed.

Jan Sundberg, of the Global Underwater Search Team, aims to begin Operation Clean Sweep in the loch on March 20 and said he was confident his four-strong crew would find any large creatures living in the loch.

The team will place a funnel-shaped net measuring five metres by seven metres in the loch in the hope of trapping any Nessie-like creatures swimming in the shallows.

Mr Sundberg, 53, said if this were to happen, a scientist from an unnamed UK university would be on hand to take DNA samples before the animal was released unharmed back into the loch.

The team will also use two new types of sonar during the two-week project with one providing a three-dimensional image of the loch while the other is an underwater camera which will photograph anything large moving beneath the surface.

Mr Sundberg told PA News he had agreed to a number of conditions set out by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the national conservation agency, who had expressed some concerns about the project.

The net must be completely sterile before being placed in the water to avoid the introduction of alien species and will only be used in shallow water so that trapped animals such as otters and seals can surface to breathe. Any salmon caught must be released immediately.

Additionally, the trap will not be baited with fish to attract Nessie and it will be checked three times a day. Any animals found inside will be released.

Mr Sundberg said: "Loch Ness has such a long history of sightings so it's reasonable to think there must be something in there.

"I certainly think we could find something if there's anything down there say an individual animal or a family. If they're there, there's no way they can get away from the sonars."

Jonathan Stacey, of SNH, said the agency was happy with the arrangements after discussing them with Mr Sundberg and receiving his agreement to their recommendations.

"Of course, if the team catches Nessie, we expect it to be released immediately. After all,

it belongs to the loch and to Scotland and we'd be doing what we could to ensure its welfare."

He added the agency had only heard of the planned search through the local grapevine and added that it was now hoped an informal network could be established to allow relevant bodies and individuals to be kept abreast of any projects proposed in the loch.

"We don't think it needs to be a formal bureaucratic structure," he said. "We believe in an informal communications network with people whose lives revolve around Loch Ness and we will just be part of that group applying our knowledge and expertise in an advisory capacity."

WHEN ANIMALS ATTACK!

1) SACRIFICIAL SHEEP SHOVES MAN TO HIS DEATH

(January 2 10:15 AM ET, Reuters)

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt - An Egyptian sheep destined for sacrificial slaughter forestalled its owner's plans by pushing him to his death from a three-story building, police said Tuesday.

They said Waheeb Hamoudah, 56, who worked in the police tax evasion department, had been feeding the sheep he had tethered on the rooftop when it butted him.

Neighbors found Hamoudah lying bleeding and concussed on the ground below, with several broken bones, Monday. He died soon after reaching hospital.

Hamoudah had been fattening the sheep for the past six weeks and planned to kill it for Eid al-Adha, the Muslim feast of sacrifice, in early March.

Many Egyptian city-dwellers keep livestock on rooftops, balconies or in basements, especially in the run-up to Eid al-Adha.

2) ELEPHANT TRAMPLES MAN AND KEEPS THE CORPSE

(January 2 10:15 AM ET, Reuters)

GUWAHATI, India - A wild elephant pulled a man down from a tree, trampled him to death and for two weeks has refused to part with the corpse, police in northeast India say.

The man climbed the tree to escape a herd of wild elephants rampaging through his village about 80 miles from Guwahati, the largest city in Assam.

One elephant grabbed him, pulled him to the ground and broke his legs.

"The elephant must have got even more irritated as the villagers were trying to free the man," a forest ranger said Sunday "It trampled him to death and took the body along with him."

That was two weeks ago and it has been carrying the body around ever since, police said.

3) COUGAR CARNAGE

(3 Jan 2001, *Calgary Sun*)

RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) Staff Sgt. Joe MacDonald carries away cross-country skis belonging to a woman killed by a cougar.

BANFF -- A 30-year-old Canmore woman was attacked and killed by a cougar as she cross-country skied near Banff.

It was the first fatal cougar attack recorded in Banff National Park.

Wardens quickly tracked the killer cougar and shot the animal.

The woman's body was found by another cross-country skier near Lake Minnewanka, about 130 km west of Calgary, yesterday afternoon.

Park wardens said the victim, whose name hasn't been released, was discovered about 20 metres off the western portion of Lake Minnewanka Road about 1:30 p.m.

"The person who discovered it had passed that way about half an hour to an hour previously," said park warden Doug Eastcott. "It's pretty traumatic for a skier to find a body. It was totally unexpected."

The healthy-looking adult male cougar is believed to be one of about five wild cats within a 5- to 10-km radius of Banff.

On the same day, a cougar attacked a dog on Buffalo Street in Banff and followed a Banff resident who stumbled across a kill site on a popular trail in the Middle Springs area.

The Lake Minnewanka Road and the Cascade Fire Trail have been evacuated and closed.

Banff resident Jim Hughes was one of a handful of skiers brought out to the parking lot on snowmobiles.

"They said we had to be out of the area, that there had been a cougar attack not far down the trail," he said.

It was the second time yesterday that cougars were a little too close for comfort for Hughes. Wardens closed off an area behind his house in Middle Springs, where a cougar had killed an elk calf, then followed Banff resident Cheryl Hyde who was walking her dog.

It is not yet known if any of the three cougar incidents Banff are related.

Chief park warden Ian Syme said Banff residents should only walk on area trails in groups.

"We don't want to put fear into people, but there is obviously something going on that we're not sure about -- people need to take a little bit of precaution," said Syme.

TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE MIR

Russian space station Mir is to become one of the brightest objects in the night sky when it passes over Britain. Experts believe some observers could be fooled into thinking that it is a UFO.

If the weather is clear, the space station should be visible for a few minutes between 5pm and 6pm each night until January 9, as its orbit passes over Britain.

Mir hit the headlines over Christmas when it was feared that the space station could crash back to earth after controllers lost radio contact with the craft.

There were worries that it could cause damage if it landed in densely populated parts of the world.

It was the most recent in a series of set-backs for the ageing Russian space station.

It was hit by a terrifying fire and near disastrous collision with an unmanned cargo

ship in 1997 followed by a series of computer glitches and breakdowns.

The craft is currently unmanned, but had cosmonauts on board almost continuously until August 1999, when it was abandoned.

The Mir only had one 73-day manned mission last year and the crew returned safely in June raising official optimism about the prospects of keeping it in orbit without a crew.

When Mir was launched on February 20, 1986, it was the epitome of achievement for the Soviet Union.

However, following the collapse of communism, the project became an increasing financial burden on Russia's economy.

With NASA and other foreign space agencies concentrating on the new International Space Station, the end of Mir seemed inevitable.

The Russian Cabinet approved a plan to crash the Mir into the Pacific 900 to 1,200 miles east of Australia on February 27-28.

The decision followed failed attempts to find private investors to keep the station operative.

MYSTERIOUS MONOLITH APPEARS IN SEATTLE PARK

John Leyden, 03/01/2001 at 12:05 GMT

A mysterious black monolith has been erected in a Seattle park calling to mind a similar structure from Stanley Kubrick's seminal film, *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Like Kubrick's monolith no-one seems to know why the steel structure was placed on a grassy knoll in Seattle's Magnuson Park - nor who erected it there.

However one thing of note is that the dimensions of the structure, nine foot by four foot by one foot, match the ratio of lengths of the monoliths featured in the Kubrick film and the Arthur C Clark book from which the movie is derived.

The Seattle Times reports there are few clues as to the origin of the structure. There's no commemorating plaque and the ground was carefully put back into place after the structure was erected.

However the presence of several plastic bottle-cap rings littered the ground around the monolith, provide evidence it is the work of terrestrial pranksters rather than extraterrestrial intelligence.

Whether the monolith is the work of artists or a publicity stunt by locally based Monolith Software is also anybody's guess. Although Bill Gates favourite film is said to be Kubrick's masterwork, no-one seriously suspects the Beast of Redmond is behind the stunt. It's too imaginative and intelligent to be the work of Microsoft.

The most plausible suspects seem to be a group called Support the Monolith who paraded a wooden monolith through Seattle on New Year's Eve. Police confiscated this at the same time as the Magnuson Park monolith was erected.

Whoever put the monolith in the Park it's provoking a reaction from locals.

The Seattle Times reports local resident Denny Sargent was moved to hum the theme song of 2001 when he approached the monolith.

"I feel my intelligence increasing by the moment," he said.

MYSTERIOUS INCIDENT IN FINLAND. (02.01.2001)

Uncommon events occurred today in Finland. In the lake near Bennayes town directly from the sky fell some enormous unidentified body.

According to the evidence of eyewitnesses, everything occurred within a few seconds. Was heard loud whistle, then the sound of impact/shock. Enormous funnel/hopper was formed on the spot of the incidence/drop in the object/subject in ice.

Scientists do not exclude, that the local residents became the eyewitnesses of the incidence/drop in the large meteorite.

However, it will be possible to explain this for sure only after the bottom of lake inspect divers.

THEY SAID WHAT?

Over the last couple of years, I have interviewed some of the most prominent UFO and paranormal researchers in the world.

However, during the Christmas season, most ufologists were too busy arguing about Rendlesham or getting drunk to be interviewed. And so was I. Consequently there is no original interview this month.

To fill the gap, I thought it would be interesting to look back at some of these interviews, and compare the differing opinions and ideas expressed by the various researchers and writers who submitted to the interview chair...and also remember some of their classic lines sound-bytes.

KENNETH ARNOLD AND THE 'PELICAN' THEORY...

ANDY ROBERTS: Arnold did not see Flying Saucers, or anything even vaguely saucer-shaped, yet within days saucers were being seen. Proof of a myth in action if ever there was one. Arnold himself believed they were military planes or a new form of insect life. He also had been writing fiction for *Amazing Stories* about seeing flying objects around Mount Ranier two years earlier. The whole Arnold phenomenon is a psycho-social ufologists dream – no there are various theories bandied around that he saw pelicans, geese or meteors and the US saucerian faithful are doing their nut about it. It's like questioning the virgin birth. Personally I think Arnold see birds of some sort – don't start wittering on about relative distances and speeds and angles etc, because if you study Arnold's many reports he changed his mind several times about all those so he is really quite an unreliable witness. All ufologists should meditate on 'Why Kenneth Arnold' at least once a week...

JERRY CLARK: No, Arnold did not see pelicans. That theory has been shot to pieces, and no rational person could possibly entertain it. As Mark Cashman, Bruce Maccabee, Brad Sparks, David Rudiak, and others have shown, it is not only logically unlikely but physically impossible. It is not a serious hypothesis.

JOHN SCHUESSLER: The situation is typical of what is going on. In many of the classic UFO cases people arise to postulate a new theory, usually years after the witnesses have died. They make a lot of noise and get a lot of internet traffic going to discuss their

concept. It is good for their egos, just as it is for those individuals that slam them for daring to think out of the box. A lot of people in the UFO field seem to need this form of mental masturbation in order to have an identity. My suggestion is to remember the phrase 'caveat emptor', or buyer beware. As far as saying Kenneth Arnold saw pelicans and not UFOs, one might as well claim he saw Santa Clause and his eight reindeer (9 in total)

GRAHAM BIRDSALL: Read Jerome Clark's superb *Encyclopaedia of UFOs* and you will appreciate that sceptics and debunkers couldn't distinguish between a flying pelican and a pelican crossing if they saw one!

ROSWELL

JEROME CLARK: From everything I can tell, Rendlesham and Socorro -- I know rather more about the latter than about the former-- remain as puzzling now as they seemed at the time. The best UFO cases remain stubbornly unexplained over time -- not what you would expect if, as debunkers (or, as I like to call them, pelicanists) were right, they all arise from prosaic causes.

Roswell, on the other hand, may be a hopeless case. Not in the sense that the Mogul explanation is certainly correct, but in the sense that so much time has passed, there was such a curtain of secrecy over it for decades, and so many witnesses have died in the interim, that the debate may well be stalemated, possibly forever. Roswell is not a

case I think a lot about these days, though some -- especially Mogul believers seem oddly obsessed with it.

There's a great deal of emotion invested in Roswell. I am basically an agnostic about it, but even that sort of fence-sitting grossly offends some Roswellphobes. Even the mildest dissent from the anti-Roswell line, as I can testify from a fair amount of strange experience, opens one to abusive letters and e-mails. I've been around ufology a long time, and I've never experienced the like. Why the emotion? Why no tolerance for differing opinion? In the end, it seems to me, none of us really knows what happened at Roswell. It all depends on whose testimony you find credible.

JENNY RANGLES: A lot of hot air over a secret balloon...

RORY LUSHMAN: Never heard of it. Something happened at Roswell, a town got rich and famous. Again so many contradictions are reported it's hard to say what happened. I would tend to believe some experimental test went wrong and they had to cover it up quickly but shot themselves in the foot by issuing the crashed UFO statement followed by the weather balloon account.

GRAHAM BIRDSALL: More to this incident than anyone will probably ever know. Check out our upcoming September/October issue of *UFO Magazine* and you will see what I mean. When the late Congressman Steve Schiff launched the GAO investigation back in 1994, I found it intriguing to say the least that all records from the 509th at Roswell AAF for that period in July, 1947 (and beyond) had been "illegally destroyed".

IS THERE A MILITARY/ GOVERNMENT UFO COVER UP?

JENNY RANGLES: Yes, but a cover up of ignorance, not knowledge. The MoD hide the extent of their research and are afraid to admit their failure to resolve or control the phenomenon.

I also think they see the advantage of learning any truths and using them to build weapons (offensive ones no doubt) that they can keep to themselves rather than freely assist in the

global scientific quest to solve the UFO mystery, with the disadvantage (to them!) that if answers appear in *New Scientist* they convey no military advantage to the MoD or the UK.

There are other factors too - such as the use of UFOlogy as a cover for nefarious activity (secret aircraft testing, EM weapons experiments and so on). UFOlogy is actually far more useful to the MoD as a half believed in secret than as an openly accepted, publicly researched set of scientific anomalies.

As a result the cover up is inevitable. But if you mean, do I believe Tony Blair has a spaceship up his jumper and a grey in his freezer nope.

RORY LUSHMAN: Yes but only the man-made ones. I'd have to see more evidence of any alien cover up before I'd even consider this as a thought.

GRAHAM BIRDSALL: Not a collective cover-up, no. Do you think that the US could go hand in glove to places such as Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya or China and ask them to be a party to the UFO cover-up?

However, there is no doubt in my mind that the US and UK are in bed together on this thing, and have been since 1947.

OMAR FOWLER: I don't have to read reports from Roswell or anywhere else to realise that there is great government secrecy about "what is going on". I base this remark on personal experience over the years. Apart from being reliably informed that my phone was being tapped some years ago (it happens to us all), I had an interesting experience back in the 1970s, when I was involved with some cockpit development work on the Concorde at Filton, Bristol.

It was quite a long drive from Guildford to Bristol in those days, before the M4 was built and on the return journey I drove home listening to the radio. My Company companion also sat listening, just as the 3:30pm news came on. To our astonishment the BBC news broadcaster said, "Reports are coming in that a UFO is hovering over Adelaide and is interfering with signals from the Gemini spacecraft."

We couldn't believe our ears and as the journey continued, we anxiously awaited the next news bulletin... On it came, but this time no mention of Adelaide, a UFO or the Gemini spacecraft. I guess someone slipped up for a moment somewhere along the line, but the leak was soon rectified. There was no further news and nothing in the following day's newspapers!

I consider it highly unlikely that there will ever be any announcement about our Alien visitors as such. The public's education about the subject will continue gradually, as at the present time i.e. "The increasing likelihood of Alien life on other planets," etc.

ETH (EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL HYPOTHESIS) AS A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR SOME UFO REPORTS?

JEROME CLARK It remains, after all this time, the only scientific and logical explanation following from the premise that the most puzzling UFO reports are evidence of an advanced technology which is not ours. I have no time for, or interest in, occultish speculations of the sort John Keel, Jacques Vallee, and others have trafficked in. That sort of thing is just tautology.

JENNY RANGLES I thought UFOs were alien spaceships during my formative years - this was the time of Apollo, discoveries about the solar system on a daily basis and in UFOlogy virtually no other interpretation. As soon as I got 'stuck in' I began to see from the facts on the ground that things were not quite so simple. In my first book - "*UFOs: A British Viewpoint*" (written with Peter Warrington between 1976 and 1979 when I spent month after month in hospital and my desired career as a scientist, then science teacher disappeared down the plughole) I saw UFOs as two different things. One group were physical phenomena of unknown origin - UAP as we called them. The other happened during an altered state of consciousness. I don't think I have fundamentally altered my perspective since then, but huge refinements and significant discoveries have followed. Right now I am very interested in the prospect of UFOs as time machines, thanks to some recent

work of my own one-time anomalies and some intriguing data coming in.

JOHN SCHUESSLER: The ETH is as good of an explanation for some UFOs as any other. I fully understand the problems of distance, speed, mass, etc, as we know them. I am currently involved in advanced propulsion concepts that could mimic a lot of technology we see evidenced in UFO reports. Nevertheless, to say the ETH is wrong because we cannot yet duplicate the type of travel necessary to get here from there, is short-sighted. The key thing to remember about the ETH is the last letter - the H stands for hypothesis. Until we resolve the UFO mystery, every claimed answer is just another hypothesis.

OMAR FOWLER: Several years ago I held the position of "National Investigations Co-ordinator" with BUFORA (British UFO Research Association). It was during this time that I began receiving reports from witnesses (including some Academics), that they had been visited by small Alien beings. At the time, I really could not accept their stories as they seemed so outlandish, but since then many researchers, particularly Budd Hopkins has been investigating similar claims. I feel that I should have paid more attention to those early reports. Even now I receive telephone calls from complete strangers who tell me that they (or their children) are alarmed by the visitations of small Alien "beings".

One of the most prominent cases I have been involved in was the "Mr. Burtoo" case in August 1983. Mr. Burtoo lived in Aldershot and was known to me at the time of the incident. He was a bit of a local historian, a keen night fisherman and didn't give a cuss for anyone. The experience that he related of having been inside a "Saucer" that landed by the canal was extraordinary and he described too many "known" factors about the inside of a saucer for me to consider it a made-up story.

I also had the pleasure of meeting Professor John E. Mack at Claridges Hotel in London a couple of years ago. Although I cannot produce an Alien for you in a bottle, what he had to say convinced me that Alien visitations are happening and that's good enough for me!

REMOTE VIEWING

ANDY ROBERTS: As you asked that question, Dave, I sensed you were lounging in

your little red frogman's suit, sipping a G & T, flicking bogies into your fishtank.

What do *you* think I think! Complete, absolute, and unadulterated nonsense. If people *can* remote view why aren't they doing it to a) help mankind by pinpointing murderers / atrocities etc, or b) seeing what horses have won / which lottery numbers have come up and retiring. Complete bullshit!

UFO PHOTOGRAPHS

Dave Baker: UFO photos and footage are notoriously suspect. have you seen anything that has made you go - "WOW!"

JENNY RANGLES: Yes, the amount of money people can get paid for a photo of a button hanging off your washing line.

JEROME CLARK: If (The Trent, McMinville photograph is) authentic -- and nearly 50 years later there's still every reason to think it is -- its implications are, perhaps in the most literal sense, of cosmic significance.

GULF BREEZE

ANDY ROBERTS: Obviously a hoax from the beginning. If any of you believed it, then you're suckers! Some people still do believe it -- and they are suckers too. The best thing about it is that Bruce Maccabee, who is some kind of high up optical physicist in the US, supports it- which as far as I'm concerned trashes the veracity of any other cases he puts his support behind.

And before anyone says "What about all those videos I've seen of UFOs at Gulf Breeze", - Pah! Watch 'em closely -- they are clearly small balloons, you can see the burning medium melt, drop off and flare out, which of course elicits ooohs and aaahs from the saucer suckers who think they are seeing something unusual.

GRAHAM BIRDSALL: I believe Ed Walters did see and photograph some UFO activity, but then resorted to dubious means to cater for the world-wide interest in his story by coming up with more and more images, though I hasten to

add there is no definitive evidence to support this theory.

What puzzles me about this case is that many, many other residents in the region saw the self-same object as depicted in Ed's photographs. Some managed to photograph and film them at the same time. I've never met Ed Walters or travelled to Gulf Breeze, but those that have met with Ed describe him as a man of integrity.

CROP CIRCLES

JENNY RANGLES: Wonderful hoaxes, lots of deluded people who are probably doing a lot of good despite the delusion and a small scale weather phenomenon at the heart.

OMAR FOWLER: It is a little difficult to condense our study of the Crop Circle phenomenon into just a few sentences, but basically our premise is this; there are two types of Crop Circle, the "Natural" atmospherically formed Crop Circle and others that have been formed by "An Intelligence".

Derbyshire, where I renewed my interest in what was now the highly complicated field of Crop Circles. In 1991 I founded the PRA and enlisted the help of members to further investigate the "Natural" Crop Circle phenomenon.

The investigations undertaken in 1991 revealed crop stems that showed signs of "burn" and "crease" marks. Both the burn and crease marks were even distributed along each stem and we postulated that a High Frequency wave pattern might have been responsible for their even distribution. However it was not until the following year that we had the means to test for H/F radiation in the Crop Circle area.

One of our members, Paul Foster, who happened to be a bit of an electronics 'whiz kid', developed a detector which was capable of detecting a wide band of radiation between 20HZ and 12 GHZ. This instrument was used for the first time at Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire, where a Crop Circle had appeared on a local hill for the forth consecutive year. The "Microdet" detected a H/F blanket of radiation covering the hilltop, although it was unable to locate the source.

Further study was undertaken using an ionisation meter, with the intention of trying to identify and locate the mysterious energy

source. It soon became apparent that an existing ionisation charge played a major part in the energy concentration formed in the Crop Circle area.

Without going into precise details (which are covered in the technical paper *Crop Circles: The Final Solution* £6 plus 50p postage), we established that a strong field of negative ion energy forms over a wheat-field whenever certain conditions are met. This produces a high-energy field which will produce red sparks and even flashes of lightning over the wheat-fields (known to farmers as "Corn Ripening Lightning").

With a high positive energy field in the Ionosphere, it is possible that a spiralling vortex action takes place between the Ionosphere and the negative charge over the wheat-fields. This may result in glowing balls of plasma being seen and a H/F energy field forming in the area. (Animal reaction has been noted in number of instances and in Canada a "micro-waved" porcupine was found in one Crop Circle).

While we cannot positively prove that our theory of spiralling H/F energy is the answer to the "Natural" Crop Circle formations, it is certainly worthy of study and a theory that we still stand by.

PAUL FULLER: There's no doubt that Doug and Dave did make numerous crop circles which "experts" (myself included) promoted as genuine (i.e. not man-made). I assumed that previous researchers had exhaustively tested ways of making crop circles. There had been 5 years of research into the phenomenon before I arrived on the scene in 1985. The known hoaxes had been relatively poor attempts and the handful of researchers who had seen them told me that these hoaxes were nothing like the "real" phenomenon. I did have doubts about this conclusion and along with Jenny we appealed to the UFO community to help us make circles to test different methods. Naturally no one offered to help. Instead most of UFOlogy immediately jumped on FSR's bandwagon, with somewhat obvious results.

(DB: Is there "anything" still unexplained about the phenomenon?)

In my opinion, no. I believe that reasonable people, if presented with the FACTS about crop circles and the people who research them, would quickly come to the conclusion (as

proposed in the Arthur C. Clarke documentary on crop circles) that most modern-day circles are fakes but that they were based on a rare poorly understood meteorological phenomenon.

I've been out of the crop circle subject for a few years and have not personally investigated these cases. However, there are large numbers of people who are highly skilled at making large complex crop formations at night. The Scorpions were allegedly created by circlemaker Robert Irving and some of his colleagues (see www.circlemakers.org.uk). I have been told that the story of the Juliette spiral being made in "2 hours" (actually it was a lot less than this) was highly dubious. The believers usually claim that the circlemakers are lying about having made specific formations whilst the circle-makers don't really care very much what the believers are saying. Nevertheless all the well known crop circle researchers have provably promoted man-made circles as non man-made, so there is overwhelming evidence that the circlemakers are telling the truth. Why else would most of the original circle researchers have dropped out of the subject altogether?

STILL-UNEXPLAINED CASES...

GLORIA DIXON: Yes, I do have cases that remain unexplained which certainly have some puzzling elements to them. The Windwhistle Hill case (See *Strange Daze* issue 20) is very odd indeed. This was triggered by the sighting of an unusual orange light by a family travelling on the A30 between Yeovil and Chard. They describe some very mysterious experiences including memories of their car coming to a complete standstill and recollections of family members disappearing from the car, and observation of a brilliant light within the car, strange figures and their great fear.

This was followed by a further experience about a week later very close to the first incident where two figures were observed on the grass verge, one figure described as exceedingly tall and another lying on the grass verge. The tall figure stepped out into centre of the road and had one foot on the grass verge and the other over the centre of the road, all in one step! The family felt this was extremely odd and instead of investigating as to whether someone had been hurt they swung around the

figure into the grass verge on the other side of the road and continued their journey. They never heard of any incident from the area and felt extremely puzzled by this.

There is also great deal of folklore surrounding this area, highwaymen, buried treasure and bodies buried in the area in addition to folklore tales about a witch being buried under Windwhistle Hill. There are also many other stories of unusual incidents that have occurred here. I went to the area in August and it was interesting to see the area where the car stop had occurred. There are a host of pylons in the area and a large radio mast behind the Windwhistle Inn. After several years of research by past BUFORA investigators, we have not been able to explain these events. Of course that does not necessarily mean that there is not an explanation and certainly it could be that electromagnetic field may have some bearing on this case.

DAVID CLARKE: Georgina (Bruni) and another smart alec, Sean Jones, thought I was exaggerating when I said on UFO Updates I had investigated "hundreds" of UFO reports. If they'd done their homework, they'd have avoided pursuing that one as they both ended up with egg on their faces. Actually, it's difficult to put a figure on the number but while working on *the Star* newsdesk for five years I was dealing with a half a dozen or so calls a month, which I was able to follow up very quickly through the usual channels (airports, MOD etc) using the resources of the newspaper.

I counted just over 110 reports investigated in one single year (1987-88) which were published by the IUN in a three volume special back in 1990, which was quite a feat back then as I was struggling on a student grant! I'd say about ten percent of the three hundred or so I've had direct dealings with remain unexplained, but only because there was not enough evidence to reach a conclusion.

ARCH-SKEPTIC PHIL KLASS

JENNY RANGLES: A wicked sense of humour. Like many sceptics obsessed with finding answers even to the point of rejecting common sense and making charges against witnesses with little substance when all other efforts to explain a case away fail.

JEROME CLARK: A self-righteous bore, the debunking equivalent of a true believer, and therefore of no use to anybody who is trying in an honest way to figure out what UFOs may or may not be. On the other hand, if you think ufology may be tantamount to Communism (a view Klass once expressed in what he meant to be a private communication), he's your man.

THE PSH AND FOLKLORE

DB: Do you, as others such as Thomas E. Bullard, believe that there are fundamental similarities in both paranormal phenomena and folklore?

DAVE CLARKE: Simply, UFOs *are* modern folklore, or as Jacques Vallee put it, "folklore in the making". People habitually think that folklore is something "other people" have - ignorant peasants in the middle ages, etc. But folklore is happening now, we all have it and in the modern era it takes the form of the myth of UFOs and ET visitors. We can't see it - or don't like to see it - because we are literally living in the heart of the myth. But at the next Millennium if there are any of us left we will be discussing flying saucers in the same way we talk about witchcraft hysteria or the fairy other-world today. Of course you'll never get the die-hard, nuts and bolts believers to accept this, but that's all part of the system.

DB: From your internet discussions, it seems that a particular bugbear of yours is the Psychosocial Hypothesis, or PSH. Can you explain what the PSH is, and why you disagree with certain aspects of it?

JEROME CLARK: It's not science. It's just literary criticism, words strung together (sometimes, admittedly, in elegant ways) devoid of empirical justification. It's not even good psychology or good sociology. It has nothing interesting to say about the sorts of cases that caused ufology to come into being in the first place, namely those cases that strongly suggest a physical, technological dimension to the UFO phenomenon. When you start discussing George Adamski and Betty Hill in the same breath, you've simply removed yourself from serious consideration.

I've written at length on the problems with the PSH. I'd refer anybody who's interested to see the entry "Psychosocial Hypothesis" in my *UFO Encyclopedia*. An abridged version appears in my trade paperback *The UFO Book*. Essentially, the PSH as one of current

ufology's enduring articles of faith is a waste of time. Of course there are psychological and sociological dimensions to ufology, and they deserve attention, and in fact they interest me quite a lot. Where the PSH turns to gibberish, though, is where it claims extraordinary causative powers -- powers that can't be demonstrated except by the waving of a *Magonia* contributor's hands.

Basically, the PSH exists to domesticate the UFO phenomenon, in other words to ease the unease the phenomenon always generates consciously or unconsciously. Of course that's a psychosocial reading, and I've learned that if you want to drive a PSHer bats, turn the tables and suggest that the PSH is itself a psychosocial response to the phenomenon.

Okay, okay, maybe I'm contradicting myself, after all those nice things I've said about Hilary Evans, who was one of the inventors of the PSH. All I can say is that Hilary has a good humor and a resistance to dogmatic insistence on his utter rightness (and righteousness) that I find appealing. Besides, the guy's smart, and a damn good writer. And, God help me, he's probably right once in a while.

ALIEN ABDUCTIONS

RORY LUSHMAN: When I was naïve and young I did believe this but as soon as I took an active roll in ufology I soon became very sceptical, as I found no evidence to support it.

JENNY RANGLES: I admire and respect Budd Hopkins and John Mack for different reasons, but I don't agree with much of what they say about the phenomenon and my feelings on the abuse of regression hypnosis is well known. This is my greatest fear about how American UFOlogy tackles the issue. One day a UFOlogist there will get sued by a witness for being implanted via hypnosis with false memories of a traumatic alien abduction. It matters not if this charge is justified (as it may not be) or if the case is won (as I doubt it could be) - but the mere fact it will happen should send shock waves through UFOlogy.

JEROME CLARK:

(Travis Walton is)...one of the real victims of the UFO age. Not a shred of evidence backs up the hoax charges Klass has been leveling for

years; yet it's depressing how many people who, while not willing to go all the way with Klass, figure, "Where there's smoke, there's fire." Believe me, there's no smoke here. Not, of course, that there could never be smoke, or fire either for that matter. But after 20 years of concentrated effort to prove that Walton and his coworkers cooked up a hoax, zero evidence to that effect has surfaced. Unless it does, it's well past time to cease assassinating Walton's character.

Budd Hopkins is as good as they come. I love Budd because he is an extraordinarily decent man. He's also smart and funny, and we share a whole lot of cultural and intellectual interests that have nothing to do with UFOs. It's a treat to be with him and his wife Carol Rainey. People are always slagging him for imagined crimes. Most of them aren't fit to shine his shoes.

He may or may not be right about the meaning of the abduction phenomenon, but however this whole controversy turns out, I admire him for the immense courage he possesses. I also admire because he'd rather listen to abductees than tell them what they did -- or did not -- experience. We all owe him a profound debt of gratitude for opening up to us a dimension of human experience (whatever its causes ultimately prove to be) of which we had been largely ignorant.

JOHN SCHUESSLER: Alien abductions are an extremely curious part of the mystery. Some UFO researchers are dedicating all their energies trying to uncover what is behind the abduction phenomena, why it is going on, how to intervene in abductions, how to measure abduction related effects, and how to recover artefacts such as implants. Unfortunately, we have too many abduction events and too few qualified abduction researchers, working with too little financial support.